



**LATA Environmental Services of Kentucky, LLC
761 Veterans Avenue
Kevil, KY 42053**

Contact: Steve Christmas
steve.christmas@lataky.com
270-441-5588

FOR RELEASE: August 21, 2014

LATA Kentucky Receives Performance Excellence Award

LATA Environmental Services of Kentucky, environmental cleanup contractor at the Department of Energy's Paducah Site, has been honored at the state level for demonstrating serious commitment to and implementation of performance improvement principles.

LATA Kentucky received an award for Performance Excellence, Level II – Commitment, from the Kentucky Center for Performance Excellence (KYCPE). Each level achieved is a step closer to sustained excellence.

Michelle Dudley and Jenny Freels of LATA Kentucky's Quality Assurance organization received the honor June 2 at the 2014 Annual Best Practice Sharing Conference for KYCPE. Colmon Elrige, executive assistant to Gov. Steve Beshear, presented the award.

KYCPE, which promotes the **Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence** in Kentucky, employs an innovative approach to assessing operational performance by using a nationally recognized program implemented at a state level. The program provides feedback on strengths and potential areas of improvement from highly experienced examiners. With the feedback, organizations are recognized for their current performance level in accordance with the criteria. Unlike contracted third-party audits, this process provides a fully independent comprehensive review of performance across the organization.

The feedback information is useful in the strategic planning process by building on strengths and addressing opportunities for improvement, said Dudley, Quality Assurance manager for LATA Kentucky.

"The process assists in finding gaps and strengthens methods of measuring, monitoring, and implementing all processes to demonstrate effectiveness and support improvements," Dudley said.

"The application process alone helps organizations identify areas for improvement, while supporting changes that increase performance and competitiveness," Dudley said. Feedback received from the application provides additional opportunities for improvement and a reinforcement of best business practices already in use.

"Safety is of utmost importance to LATA," according to the feedback report from examiners. "The Integrated Safety Management System—Environmental Management System is designed to apply execution and a monitoring process that support safe and compliant performance of the workforce in completion of LATA's mission."

Examiners also found strengths in LATA Kentucky's processes and the annual site management plan, calling them a systematic, well-deployed approach to strategic planning.

"Cycles of learning are proven by the use of lessons learned from other Department of Energy Environmental Management Projects," according to the evaluation. Examiners said these processes allow the LATA Kentucky organization to respond quickly to a changing environment.

LATA Kentucky began a five-year contract in 2010 for environmental remediation at the Paducah Site. Primary teaming partners are LATA-Sharp Remediation Services; S.M. Stoller Corp., a Subsidiary of Huntington Ingalls Industries; and B&W Technical Services Group.



Photo: KYCPE

Left to right: Colmon Elrige, executive assistant to the Governor; Jenny Freels, Quality Assurance Support and Programs manager; Michelle Dudley, Quality Assurance manager

-End-